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GR-32

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Alfred Glanzmann
Serial No: 09/579,901
U.S. Filed: May 26, 2000
For: TRANSPORT DISC FOR AN OPENING DEVICE OF A PRINTED
SHEET FEEDER
Examiner: Patrick Mackey
Art Unit: 3651

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF

S I R:

In response to the Examiner's Answer dated June 1, 2004,
applicant submits the present Reply Brief.

The Examiner once again states that Nelson "does not
disclose that the outer elastic support has an outer bearing
layer, a compensation area, a radial compression area, an inner

layer, or a plurality of stays formed as ledges or lamellas which are positioned at a slant to a radial line." The Examiner then relies upon the Koren reference which was cited as merely being technological background by the European Patent Office. However, the applicant respectfully submits that the features of the present invention missing from Nelson are not taught by Koren. Furthermore, even if the features were taught by Koren there is no motivation in either of the references for making the combination as argued by the Examiner.

The reference to Nelson et al. is directed to an opening device for a printed sheet feeder for feeding sheets to a saddle-like conveying device 32, as shown in Fig. 4. The opening device consists essentially of two conveying disks 29, 30, wherein the conveying disk 30 has on a circumferential portion thereof sponge rubber strips 30c which clamp the printed sheets between the conveying disks 29, 30. An opening device of this type is discussed in the description of the prior art of the present application. The disadvantages of this known device are also discussed in the application.

It is the position of the Examiner that the features not shown by the reference to Nelson et al. are disclosed by the

reference to Koren.

However, the reference to Koren is directed to a lamella ring, particularly for width adjusting rollers for adjusting the width of web-like materials, such as paper, textile or foil webs. For this purpose, a plurality of lamella rings 2 are mounted in a row in the direction of the roller axis on the core 1 of the roller, wherein these lamella rings 2 are arranged symmetrically on both sides of a plane extending perpendicularly of the axis of rotation of the roller core. By applying a radial pressure, which is produced by a tension of the material web traveling over the width adjusting roller, the outer circumference of the roller is displaced axially and symmetrically relative to the perpendicular plane and, thus, produces a lateral stretching of the material web. Provided as an outer supporting layer is a flexible hose 3 having an inwardly directed profiling which secures the hose 3 in its position.

Consequently, the only thing the roller of the reference to Koren and the transport disk according to the present invention have in common is that a radial pressure is applied. Because the roller of the reference and the transport disk according to the present invention are structurally different, the effects of the

radial pressure application are different and serve different purposes. As a result of forces generated transversely of the axis of rotation of the roller of the reference to Koren, a stretching effect is achieved which is directed over the width of a material web; on the other hand, in accordance with the present invention, a radial reaction force is achieved for clamping individual printed sheets between two opening drums B and C.

Accordingly, it is submitted that a combination of the references to Nelson et al. and Koren clearly will not result in the disk according to the presently claimed invention. The only possible way to make a piece-meal combination of the features of the two references as argued by the Examiner is by impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the invention using the present application as a guide.

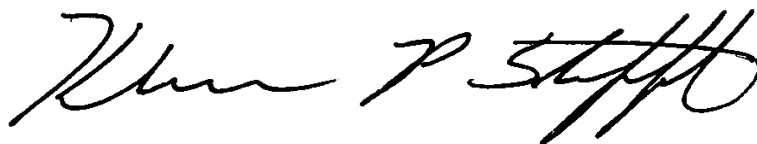
Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the art of record.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections are in error and should be overturned.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in

connection with the application may be charged to Patent and
Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,



Klaus P. Stoffel
Reg. No. 31,668
For: Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue
Suite 910
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 986-3114

Dated: July 30, 2004

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Date: July 30, 2004